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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 000822

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/27/2034  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [CH](#)  
SUBJECT: PRC: EMBASSY NOTIFIES MFA ON R/V MARCUS LANGSETH  
VOYAGE

REF: A. STATE 029446  
[1](#)B. BEIJING 781

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY ACTING POLITICAL MINISTER  
COUNSELOR BEN MOELING FOR REASONS 1.4 (B)  
AND (D).

[1](#)1. (C) On March 27, the Acting Political Minister Counselor conveyed ref A points offering assurances regarding the R/V MARCUS LANGSETH's research voyage in the South China Sea to MFA North American and Oceanian Affairs Department U.S. Division Director An Gang. An Gang zeroed in on the language "waters we believe to be within China's EEZ" and asked for further elaboration on this point, which A/POL M/C declined to offer. An Gang said that "we must reserve the right to act in our EEZ according to Chinese law," and the MFA sincerely hoped that the area the United States "believed to be within China's EEZ" was consistent with the area China regarded as its EEZ.

[1](#)2. (C) An Gang continued that China hoped the United States would handle this issue carefully and not send the Langseth into "highly sensitive seas, so as to avoid clashes and disputes." He stressed also that the United States "should pay attention to the first part of our demarche of March 25" (ref B, China seeking a reduction in U.S. Navy surveillance activity in China's Exclusive Economic Zone) and "not send armed ships into our waters."  
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